

Recently Completed Projects: Dormitory and Water Bore Hole

During November, our Vice Chairman Gordon Lland and his wife Phil, visited the projects. Whilst there, they saw the girls' dormitory at St Matia Mulumba, built by EVC, officially opened by the Diocesan Education Officer. The water bore hole was part finished at that point and was eventually completed ready for the beginning of the new school term in February this year.



The children have been asked how they are benefitting from these new additions to their school and their comments, together with photos, can be seen below.

Now each of us has our own bed.



In our old dormitory we were overcrowded and sometimes two of us had to sleep in the same bed.

The water we collected was dirty. Sometimes we drank contaminated water before it was boiled.

We have solar powered light so we are able to read our books and revise.



Before we had the water bore hole we often caught diseases like typhoid.

In the old room some of us had just a mattress on the floor because there weren't enough beds.



There is much more space to move around in and the air is much fresher.

Now, when fetching water, we don't have to look out for snakes or miss class time.

There is less disease as everyone drinks clean water.

There were sometimes snakes near the pond and sometimes villagers did their washing there.

Because it was so crowded we couldn't move around and there wasn't much fresh air.



It was easy for us to catch diseases from one another because of the lack of space and fresh air.

Some children missed lessons because they had to collect water from the pond for use in school.



No unboiled water is drunk as the water source is nearby and the cooks boil it for us.

Sometimes the villagers used the well as their toilet.

Now we have better sanitation as we have new bathrooms and toilets near to the dormitory.

Before, it was possible for some children to run away from school when they went to collect water, but now that doesn't happen.

Now we can collect water at any time and don't have to walk a long distance.



Phil and Gordon Lland's visit to Uganda

It was our great pleasure and privilege to visit Uganda for two weeks in November 2018 and witness EVC operations on behalf of the charity. It was also our first visit to Uganda.

The welcome and hospitality was overwhelming. Everyone repeatedly expressed their thanks for all the sponsorships and donations we raise in the UK.



It was an action packed two weeks, with not a minute's downtime. We visited the two primary schools we support, St Matia Mulumba and St Kizito. We accompanied the outreach teams who visit the children's homes and met parents and grandparents. We visited EVC sponsored students in many of their secondary schools.

Overall impressions of the visit

- A wonderful experience which we will remember forever
- The generosity, warmth and friendliness of the children and people everywhere
- How hard working everyone is
- The excellent teaching in the schools
- The well behaved children
- Uganda is a very green and fertile land. Plant anything and it grows !!!

What's Next?

Now that the girls' dormitory has been completed and the water bore hole has been installed, what are the projects EVC is looking to begin funding during 2019?

Both our primary schools are in need of extra buildings. St Matia Mulumba needs a workshop and IT suite, in order to offer a wider curriculum to the children, as well as a new boys' dormitory. St Kizito has need of a new eight classroom block so that class sizes can be brought down to more manageable levels—Judi taught a class of 109 on her last visit! Even with these large class sizes, in the end of primary school tests for 2018, St Kizito was shown to be one of the top primary schools in Uganda. Both schools have the land on which to build, but lack the finances to carry out the work. So, our focus this year and on into 2020/21, will be to raise the money needed for this work to be carried out—around £50,000 for St Matia Mulumba and £80,000 for St Kizito. It's great to see that St Kizito has already been fundraising and, on Gordon's visit, had accumulated over £8,000 towards their project.

We would value your prayers for success for Gordon and Andy as they prepare bids to send to charitable trusts and foundations for assistance with this work. Also for Ted and Judi, as they continue to seek openings in churches for appeals—together with Gift Aid, around £23,000 was raised from these last year, for which we are extremely grateful.